

PERFORMANCE REPORT

STATE: Alaska

GRANT NR: W-31-HS-3

TITLE: Hunter Information and Training

PERIOD: 1 July 2000–30 June 2001

PROJECT OBJECTIVES: To develop and conduct an educational program for the following purposes:

- Reduce hunting-related accidents, particularly those involving firearms, muzzleloaders and archery equipment;
- Provide students with a basic understanding of wildlife management;
- Assist students in understanding hunter responsibility and ethics and the roles these play in the future of hunting;
- Assist students in reading and understanding state and federal regulations.

JOB 1: PROGRAM COORDINATION AND EVALUATION

JOB OBJECTIVES

- Coordinate the state Hunter Information and Training (HIT) program
 - Maintain standards of delivery
- a. Activities:** Development of a new basic hunter education manual continued. We also implemented an independent study course, supplemented by a field course and live fire proficiency exercise. We offered expanded opportunity for basic, bow, and muzzleloader hunter education courses in southeast and interior Alaska.

This year we enrolled 1039 students in 64 basic HIT and 56 bowhunter education courses. Student enrollment in basic hunter education courses ranged from 1 per course to 48 per course, averaging 9.4 students certified per course. A total of 968 students were certified statewide in the basic program. Bowhunter instructors certified 636 students this year. A total of 142 students received muzzleloader certification. The majority of students were from Fairbanks, Anchorage, Mat-Su Valley, and the Kenai peninsula. A total of 1746 students received certification through the Hunter Information and Training Program.

During April-June the HIT mobile system spent eight weeks in interior Alaska, conducting a wide variety of clinics and hunter education certification courses. Reloading, Becoming an Outdoor Woman, and waterfowl wounding reduction clinics

were held in addition to offering basic hunter education and muzzleloading certification courses in both urban and rural communities.

b. Target Date: Continuing.

c. Job Status: The total number of students certified increased by 9% from the previous year. Most of the growth occurred in bow hunter and muzzleloader hunter certification. The number of basic hunter education students certified decreased by 11 per cent. The number of basic hunter education students certified should increase with the implementation of the independent study course during 2001-2002.

d. Significant Deviations: None.

e. Recommendations: Complete implementation of the independent study option which will expand access to basic hunter education courses throughout the state. The independent study option will permit expansion in the number of basic hunter education courses offered and is likely to aid in recruitment of active instructors. Key to implementation of the independent study option is regional training for volunteer instructors which will be conducted during 2001-2002. Mandatory hunter education for those under the age of 16 who hunt in Game Management Units 7, 13, 14, and 20 will be implemented in August, 2002. The independent study option will aid in meeting the anticipated demand for additional basic hunter education courses in these GMU's.

JOB 2: INSTRUCTOR RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

JOB OBJECTIVES

- Recruit, train, and support volunteer instructors around the state
- Maintain at least 250 active instructors

a. Activities: A total of 250 instructors were active in the basic, bow, and muzzleloader programs. No annual workshop was conducted this year. Funds normally used for this event will be used to conduct regional training for instructors, implementation of the new curriculum and the independent study option.

b. Target Date: Continuing.

c. Status of Progress: We intend to revitalize our instructor corps through implementation of an objective based incentive system accompanied by mandatory regional training aimed at improving teaching techniques and use of effective instructional strategies.

d. Significant Deviations: None.

e. Recommendations: Conduct regional training for 100 instructors throughout the state. Efforts will be focused in regions affected by implementation of mandatory basic hunter education requirements.

JOB 3: STUDENT RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

JOB OBJECTIVES

- Encourage student participation in the HIT program
- Ensure that students enrolled in HIT courses receive a minimum of 10 hours of instruction on proper handling of hunting equipment, outdoor survival, wildlife management, and hunter responsibility and ethics
- Certify 1200 students each year in the basic HIT course

a. Activities: During this period 968 students were certified in the basic HIT education course. An additional 636 were certified in the bowhunter education course. Basic courses averaged 15.1 students. Of the 64 basic courses offered, 52 had live fire and 22 had a field course. A basic hunter education course averaged 17.3 hours.

b. Target Date: Continuing.

c. Status of Progress: The number of students enrolled and certified in the Hunter Education Program increased slightly from last year. Such fluctuations are not unexpected. A total of 1746 students were certified in the program.

MINORITY PARTICIPATION IN BASIC COURSES

Female	167/64 courses	761 students
Alaska Natives	52/64 courses	257 students
Black	5/64 courses	60 students
Oriental	5/64 courses	58 students
Hispanic	3/64 courses	97 students
Alaskans with disabilities	0/64 courses	0 students

MINORITY PARTICIPATION IN BOW HUNTER COURSES

Female	21/56 courses	323 students
Alaska Native	13/56 courses	173 students
Black	3/56 courses	63 students
Oriental	1/56 courses	21 students
Hispanic	1/56 courses	12 students
Alaskans with disabilities	3/56 courses	29 students

d. SIGNIFICANT DEVIATIONS: None.

- e. **Recommendations:** To facilitate student access to our programs, we need to make it available in a variety of delivery formats. We will continue to offer courses in the traditional instructor delivery style, but we will also begin to offer the course as an independent study option. This type of flexibility should result in more students taking the course.

JOB 4: ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

Job Objectives: Write an annual performance report describing active projects of the previous year.

SEGMENT PERIOD COSTS

Federal: \$10,600 **State:** \$65,700 **Total:** \$76,300

PERSONNEL

John Matthews
Tony Monzingo
Elaine Larimer
Kirk Lingofelt
Rod Perry
Lee Rogers
Steve Tucker